

REMARKS

The rejection for anticipation by Taniguchi et al, as set forth in paragraph 3 of the office action, is respectfully traversed. The examiner is asked to note the relationship between the present application and U.S. 6,478,101. The Taniguchi patent cited by the examiner, U.S. 6,478,101, combines the teachings of Japanese Applications 11-282177 and 2000-179885 and claims their priority. The present application claims priority of those same two Japanese applications plus a third Japanese application, i.e., Japanese Application No. 2000-292978 filed September 26, 2000 in which Mr. Takahiro Kido is an additional coinventor. Accordingly, to the extent that U.S. 6,478,101 discloses subject matter claimed here, it is not the invention of “another” as required by 35 USC 102(e).

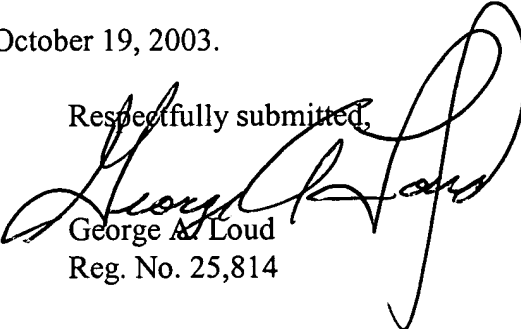
It should also be noted that the Taniguchi et al reference cannot properly be considered prior art here because all three Japanese applications for which priority is claimed here have filing dates earlier than the 102(e) date of Taniguchi et al, i.e., the September 28, 2000 U.S. filing date of Taniguchi et al. Applicants filed a verified translation of Japanese Application 11-282177 with their submission of May 9, 2003. It is respectfully submitted that no further translation is necessary or should be required in view of the fact that Taniguchi et al, on information and belief, can be considered an English language version of the combined teachings of Japanese Application 11-282177 and Japanese Application 2000-179885.

The rejection of claims 44, 58 and 62 for obviousness over Werner et al is also traversed. This rejection appears to be incorrectly written because all of the rejected claims (claims 44, 58

and 62) depend from claims which are not rejected over Werner et al. Perhaps the examiner meant for the rejection to be based on Taniguchi et al in view of Werner et al but, for the reasons noted above, Taniguchi et al is not prior art against the present application.

Regarding the mention of "the interview of November 29, 2003" at page 13 of applicants' response of December 23, 2003, it is acknowledged that same was a mistake. The reference should have been to the personal interview on October 19, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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